

1 SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP
A Limited Liability Partnership
2 Including Professional Corporations
ORI KATZ, Cal. Bar No. 209561
3 J. BARRETT MARUM, Cal. Bar No. 228628
MATT KLINGER, Cal. Bar No. 307362
4 GIANNA SEGRETTI, Cal. Bar No. 323645
Four Embarcadero Center, 17th Floor
5 San Francisco, California 94111-4109
Telephone: 415.434.9100
6 Facsimile: 415.434.3947
Email: okatz@sheppardmullin.com
7 bmarum@sheppardmullin.com
mklinger@sheppardmullin.com
8 gsegretti@sheppardmullin.com

9 Proposed Counsel for Debtor

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11 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
12 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
13 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

14 In re
15 PROFESSIONAL FINANCIAL
INVESTORS, INC.

16 Debtor.

Case No. 20-30604
(Joint Administration Requested with Case No.
20-30579)

Chapter 11

**EX PARTE APPLICATION
PURSUANT TO BANKRUPTCY RULE
1015(B) AND LOCAL RULE 1015-1
REQUESTING JOINT
ADMINISTRATION OF CHAPTER 11
CASES**

[No Hearing Required]

22 Professional Financial Investors, Inc. (“PFI”), the above-captioned debtor and
23 debtor-in-possession, hereby moves the Court for the entry of an order directing the joint
24 administration of its case with that of Professional Investors Security Fund, Inc., (“PISF,”
25 and together with PFI, the “Debtors”), Case No. 20-30579 (the “PISF Case”) for
26 procedural purposes only. In support of this Application, PFI submits the *Declaration of*
27 *Michael Hogan in Support of Debtor’s Bankruptcy Filing and Early Case Administration*
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1 *Motions* (the “First Day Declaration”), filed concurrently with the Application. In further
2 support of this Application, PFI respectfully represents as follows:

3 **INTRODUCTION**

4 1. On July 16, 2020, Jacques Achsen, Samueal Goldberger, Elizabeth
5 Goldblatt, Arthur Indenbaum, Andrew Michaels, Mary Michaels, and Joel Rubenzahl (the
6 “Petitioning Creditors”), each of which assert that they are creditors of PISF, filed an
7 involuntary petition against PISF (the “Involuntary Petition”) under chapter 11 of title 11
8 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”), commencing the PISF
9 Case.

10 2. On the date of this Application, PFI commenced the above-captioned
11 voluntary bankruptcy case under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code (the “PFI Case,” and
12 together with the PISF Case, the “Chapter 11 Cases”). Concurrently with the
13 commencement of the PFI Case, PISF has filed a Consent to Entry of Order for Relief in
14 response to the Involuntary Petition.

15 3. The Debtors are in possession of their properties and assets as debtors in
16 possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. No request has
17 been made for the appointment of a trustee or examiner, and no official committee has
18 been appointed in the Chapter 11 Cases.

19 4. A description of the Debtors’ background and capital structure, the events
20 leading to these bankruptcy filings, and the next steps for the Debtors’ Chapter 11 Cases
21 are set forth in the First Day Declaration, and is incorporated here by this reference.

22 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

23 5. This Court has jurisdiction to consider this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§
24 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue is proper
25 before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

26 6. The statutory bases for the relief requested herein are section 105(a) of the
27 Bankruptcy Code, Rule 1015(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the
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1 “Bankruptcy Rules”), and Rule 1015-1 of the Bankruptcy Local Rules of the United States
2 Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the “Local Rules”).

3 **RELIEF REQUESTED**

4 7. By this Application, PFI respectfully requests, pursuant to Rule 1015(b) of
5 the Bankruptcy Rules and Rule 1015-1 of the Local Rules, entry of an order, substantially
6 in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, directing the joint administration of the Chapter
7 11 Cases for procedural purposes only, under the case number assigned to PFI.

8 **BASIS FOR RELIEF**

9 8. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b), this Court may order the joint
10 administration of the estates of “a debtor and an affiliate” if their petitions “are pending in
11 the same court.” Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1015(b). The Debtors are “affiliates” as that term is
12 defined in section 101(2) of the Bankruptcy Code. 11 U.S.C. §101(2). The Debtors are
13 part of the same corporate enterprise. Accordingly, the Court is authorized to jointly
14 administer the Chapter 11 Cases for procedural purposes.

15 9. In addition, Rule 1015-1 of the Local Rules provides in relevant part, as
16 follows:

17 In the event there are related bankruptcy cases, the debtor shall file a
18 Notice of Related Case(s) at the time of filing of a petition for relief,
19 and shall serve a copy of the notice upon the United States Trustee,
other than when filed by ECF. The notice shall list the name, filing
date, and case number of any related cases.

20 A motion by a party in interest to transfer a case or cases shall be
21 addressed to the Judge presiding in the earliest filed case and served
on the debtors and all trustees appointed in the cases.

22 Local Rule 1015-1(b), (d).

23 10. Pursuant to Local Rule 1015-1, the PFI has filed the First Day Declaration
24 and Notice of Related Cases contemporaneously with this Application. The First Day
25 Declaration establishes that the joint administration of the Debtors’ respective estates is
26 warranted and will promote an efficient administration of the cases.

27 11. Given the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the
28 Local Rules, as well as the Debtors’ affiliation, joint administration of the Debtors’

1 Chapter 11 Cases is warranted. The Debtors anticipate that their Chapter 11 Cases will
2 proceed according to the same timetable and that most of the notices, applications, motions
3 and other pleadings filed and orders entered in these cases will effect each of the Debtors.
4 Joint administration of these cases will eliminate the need to prepare, replicate, serve, and
5 file duplicative notices, applications, and orders, thereby saving the Debtors' estates
6 considerable expense and resources. This will allow the Debtors and other parties-in-
7 interest to (i) file one pleading in one case rather than separate pleadings in separate cases,
8 (ii) combine and streamline the service of pleadings and notices on creditors and other
9 parties-in-interest, and (iii) monitor the Chapter 11 Cases by reviewing only one docket.
10 Further, joint administration will relieve this Court of the burden of entering duplicative
11 orders and maintaining duplicative files and dockets. Similarly, joint administration will
12 simplify the supervision of the administrative aspects of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases by
13 the Office of the United States Trustee for Northern District of California.

14 12. In addition, the relief requested will not adversely affect creditors' rights as
15 the relief requested by this Application is only procedural, seeking only administrative, and
16 not substantive, consolidation of the Debtors' estates. Moreover, if necessary to file
17 claims, each creditor may still file its claim against a particular estate. In fact, the reduced
18 costs that will result from the joint administration of these cases will inure to the benefit of
19 all creditors.

20 13. Furthermore, in this district, Courts have routinely permitted the joint
21 administration of affiliated debtors' chapter 11 cases, such as these, for procedural
22 purposes. *See, e.g., In re Wrap Media, LLC*, Case No. 16-31325 Bankr. N.D. Cal. Dec. 10,
23 2016) [Docket No. 39]; *In re Santa Cruz Berry Farming Company, LLC*, Case No. 15-
24 51771 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. June 17, 2015) [Docket No. 64]; *In re Clement Support Services,*
25 *Inc.*, Case No. 15-50794 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. Mar. 17, 2015) [Docket No. 41]. Accordingly,
26 the Debtors respectfully request that the court jointly administer the Debtors' Chapter 11
27 Cases.

1 14. Finally, PFI requests that the Court direct the joint administration of the
2 Chapter 11 Cases under the case number assigned to PFI since PFI anticipates that the
3 order for relief will be entered in the voluntary PFI Case before an order for relief is
4 entered in the Involuntary Petition against PISF.

5 **No Prior Request for Relief**

6 15. No previous application for the relief sought herein has been made to this or
7 to any other court.

8 **WHEREFORE**, PFI respectfully requests that the Court grant the relief requested
9 in this Application and such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

10 Dated: July 26, 2020

11 SHEPPARD MULLIN RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP

12 Bv

13 _____
 /s/ Ori Katz

14 ORI KATZ

15 J. BARRETT MARUM

16 MATT KLINGER

17 GIANNA SEGRETTI

18 Proposed Counsel for Debtor
19 Professional Financial Investors, Inc.
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EXHIBIT A
(Proposed Order)

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

In re
PROFESSIONAL FINANCIAL
INVESTORS, INC.,
Debtor.

Case No. 20-30604

Chapter 11

**[PROPOSED] ORDER DIRECTING
THE JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF
RELATED CASES**

[No Hearing Required]

The Court having considered the *Ex Parte Application Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b) and Local Rule 1015-1 Requesting Joint Administration of Chapter 11 Cases* (the “Application”) filed by the debtor and debtor-in-possession, Professional Financial Investors, Inc. (“PFI”), on July 25, 2020, as Docket No. __, seeking an order directing the joint administration of the above-captioned chapter 11 case with the chapter 11 case of Professional Investors Security Fund, Inc., (“PISF” and together with PFI, the “Debtors”) commenced on July 16, 2020, as Case No. 20-30579, the declarations and other pleadings filed in support of the Application, and all pleadings and evidence of record in this case,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Application is GRANTED.
2. The chapter 11 cases of Debtors shall be jointly administered under the chapter 11 case of Professional Financial Investors, Inc., Case No. 20-30604.
3. The caption of the jointly administered Chapter 11 Cases shall read as follows:

1 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

3 In re:)
4) Case No. 20-30604
5 PROFESSIONAL FINANCIAL) (Jointly Administered with Case
6 INVESTORS, INC., a California) No. 20-30579)
7 corporation; PROFESSIONAL) Chapter 11
8 INVESTORS SECURITY FUND, INC.,)
a California corporation,)
Debtors.

9 4. Except as provided here, the caption page for all pleadings, notices, and
10 orders, filed in the Debtors' cases shall be filed in Case No. 20-30604. The docket for case
11 number Case No. 20-30604 shall be designated as the single pleadings docket for all
12 pleadings with respect to these jointly administered cases.

13 5. Absent further order of the Court, each of the Debtors shall separately file its
14 own schedules of assets and liabilities and statements of financial affairs, and each shall
15 maintain its own claims register. Proofs of claims shall be filed in each case in which the
16 filing creditor is asserting a claim, and identify in the caption the name of the Debtor
17 against which the claim is asserted.

18 *** END OF ORDER ***
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